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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **MARYLAND ENERGY ADMINISTRATION INCREASES WOOD STOVE PURCHASE GRANT INCENTIVES**

*Grants of up to \$700 available for qualifying wood stoves.*

**Annapolis, Maryland** (October 1, 2013) — Today, the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) announced increased incentive levels for the Clean Burning Wood Stove Grant Program. Building off the success of the pilot program, MEA has added an additional \$100 grant for every qualifying wood stove system. Pellet stoves will now qualify for a one-time \$700 grant if the system is certified by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and emits no more than 3 grams of particulate matter (PM/hr). Stick stoves that meet Washington Emission Standards and emit no more than 2 grams of PM/hr, now qualify for a one-time \$500 grant.

"MEA is pleased to increase incentive levels for our Clean Burning Wood Stove Grant Program," said Abigail Ross Hopper, MEA Director. "Marylanders across our state are reaping the financial and comfort benefits of clean, wood-burning heat."

Since the inception of the Clean Burning Wood Stove Grant Program in 2012, MEA has contributed to the deployment of 168 woodstoves within every county in Maryland. The higher incentives are available to systems that are self-installed (with proof of official county inspection) as well as to qualified systems that replace inefficient, older woodstove systems.

"The MEA Clean Burning Wood Stove Program is a win-win for my business and our customers," said Suzanne Turner of Salisbury's Survival Products Incorporated. "Not only do my customers heat their homes efficiently and at a reduced cost with the wood and pellet stoves, but we're also able to contribute to a greener Maryland as well."

The funds will be available on a first come, first served basis. To apply for a grant for your clean burning wood stove purchase and see where the grants to date have been awarded, please visit:

<http://energy.maryland.gov/Residential/woodstoves/index.html>.

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The mission of the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) is to promote affordable, reliable, clean energy. MEA's programs and policies help lower energy bills, fuel the creation of green collar jobs, address environmental and climate impacts, and promote energy independence.